

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY A/SY:VFST.MARS:JBH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 004639

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: OUTSTANDING SECURITY PROJECTS, NIAMEY

REF: STATE 004638

ADDIS FOR RSS SCHULTZ, ABIDJAN FOR RSO FROM DASS DIKEOS

1. REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS NIAMEY 64, JANUARY 7, FROM AMBASSADOR TO DASS AND SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH REFTTEL:

BEGIN QUOTE:

1. HAVE JUST HEARD THAT YOU PLAN VISIT TO ABIDJAN IN LATE JANUARY FOR RSO MEETING. WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED HAVE YOU MAKE SIDE TRIP TO NIAMEY SO YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF TYPE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS WE HAVE. IF THIS IS NOT IN CARDS, WE STILL HOPE SOMEONE FROM YOUR STAFF CAN PEEL OFF AFTER ABIDJAN MEETING AND VISIT NIAMEY, WITH RSO IF THIS IS CONVENIENT, FOR A) ON SPOT REVIEW OF PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO IMPROVE OUR SECURITY SITUATION, AND B) CONSIDERATION OF ASSIGNMENT HERE ON TDY OF SOMEONE FROM YOUR OFFICE PREPARED TO OBTAIN AND EVALUATE BIDS,
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NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS FOR RSO RECOMMENDED PROJECTS AND

SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION.

2. I URGE THIS BECAUSE WHILE WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN CARRYING OUT RSO RECOMMENDATIONS (ABIDJAN A-61, JULY 1975) OUR EFFORTS TO DATE ARE REALLY PERIPHERAL TO OUR BASIC SECURITY PROBLEMS. ESSENTIALLY WE ARE NO BETTER OFF NOW THAN WHEN I WROTE YOU ON DECEMBER 26, 1974 OR WHEN WE SUBMITTED OUR GENERAL REEVALUATION OF SECURITY SITUATION (NIAMEY 4048). TO JUDGE BY LATEST EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES (NIAMEY 4682, STATE 001253) THIS UNHAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS CAN DRAG ON AND ON UNLESS WE CHANGE OUR TACTICS. WE ARE REPLYING TO STATE 001253 BUT I DOUBT WHETHER OUR MESSAGE WILL RESOLVE YOUR DOUBTS AND THIS WILL CALL FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF CABLES AND SO ON. PROBLEM IS THAT WE LACK EXPERTISE TO EVALUATE BIDS OF FRENCH COMPANIES FULLY EXPLOITING THEIR MONOPOLISTIC SITUATIONS OR TO TRIM THEM AND POSSIBLY END UP WITH SUBSTANDARD SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. WE ALSO NOT IN POSITION TO DECIDE WHETHER WE SHOULD GO ALONG WITH FRENCH OFFERS OR WHETHER WE CAN DO JOB OURSELVES. THIS DEPENDS ON INPUT OF FUNDS, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FROM WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE ABOUT WHICH WE ARE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE.

3. TO CUT THROUGH THESE PROBLEMS AND DELAYS WE HAVE IN MIND SOMEONE FROM YOUR OFFICE TO VISIT NIAMEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TO DO JOB DESCRIBED IN PARA 1(B) ABOVE AND TO REMAIN AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO GET JOB DONE.

4. ANOTHER REASON I WOULD HOPE YOU OR SOMEONE ON YOUR STAFF COULD COME OUR WAY BEFORE OR AFTER ABIDJAN MEETING IS TO DISCUSS ASSIGNMENT OF MSG UNIT TO NIAMEY. BEFORE MOVING ON THIS WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS AND TIMING OF BOTH IN RELATION TO ARRIVAL OF MSG UNIT.

5. HOPE WE CAN PERSUADE YOU TO VISIT US AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. HECK. END QUOTE.

2. AS INDICATED REFTEL, RSS SCHULTZ SHOULD PLAN VISIT TO NIAMEY WITH RSO CLARKE FOLLOWING RSO CONFERENCE ABIDJAN. ALL BACKGROUND MATERIAL BEING POUCHED TO ADDIS BY SY/FO
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THIS DATE. SINCE PROJECTS WHICH AMBASSADOR HECK ADDRESSES IN REFTEL HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING FOR EXTENDED PERIOD, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EARLY CONCERTED RSS/RSO ACTION BE TAKEN TO ASSIST THE POST IN CORRECTING THE PROBLEMS NOTED. SY STANDS PREPARED TO ASSIST FROM THIS END TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

3. DASS WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN FURTHER DETAIL DURING

UPCOMING AFRICAN VISIT. KISSINGER

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